

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Dan Erbes

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number: N/A

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): Reference 516 DM 11.9 J. Other, (3) Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2012-0003-CX

Project Name: Yerington Off-site Wells - Fall 2011

Project Description: Drilling and monitor well installation has been requested by EPA at three (3) locations on BLM managed lands over the next 6-months. Each location will include one or more wells installed as a closely spaced cluster to minimize the total land disturbance. Drill locations are presented on the attached USGS topo maps at a scale of 1:24,000. Brown and Caldwell will access drill sites using existing roads and does not anticipate any of the proposed locations will require any ground disturbance (e.g. road building or drill pad construction) off the existing roads, although there may be a need to set up the drill rigs or support vehicles off the edge of existing access roads causing some minor disturbance to the vegetation. Time to complete each borehole will be approximately 2 to 5 days depending on the location, depth and whether intermediate (zonal) water samples will be collected during the drilling process. Locations that have more than one borehole will likely require the drilling to be completed in two phases: 1) an initial phase of drilling the deeper hole and conducting zonal sampling, and 2) a follow-up phase to install the shallower well with a second sonic drill or the bedrock well using the air rotary drill rig. Atlantic Richfield and Brown and Caldwell will need to continue accessing the completed monitor wells each month for water level measurements and once per quarter for sample collection. A 3 foot tall monument with 2' x 2' concrete pad will be the only permanent installation remaining at each monitor well location. The wells will remain locked at all times with keys managed by Brown and Caldwell. Well abandonment will be addressed under a separate action.

Applicant Name: Brown and Caldwell on behalf of Atlantic Richfield Company

Project Location: Within sections 7, 17, and 29, T. 13 N., R. 25 E., MDBM (see attached maps).

BLM Acres for the Project Area: Less than 5 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): This action is in conformance with the Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001); Specifically to coordinate hazardous materials management with local, state and federal agencies (HAZ-2), and to provide for compliance with applicable pollution control laws, including state and federal air, water, or other pollution control standards, programs, or implementation plans (SWA-1).

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist
review:
initial in
appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		DBE
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		nc ADC RC PZ
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		DBE
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		DBE
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		PBE
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		DBE
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		RC
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		DT PZ
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		DBE
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		DBE
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		RC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		DT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Jo Ann Hufnagle, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Niki Cutler, Hydrologist
Rachel Crews, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:



James W. Schroeder
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office

10/18/2011
(date)

EXHIBIT "B"

LOCATION MAP

Figure showing planned well location and identification number on parcel which will be sampled.

